

NETWORK MODELS, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS
FOR MANAGING A SERVICE INDEPENDENT OF THE UNDERLYING
NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Embodiments of the present invention provide network models, methods,
systems, and computer program products for managing a service. For example, in
some embodiments, a network model for managing a service includes an end service
domain that associates the service with an end service provider. The end service
10 domain includes a plurality of wholesale service domains that each includes one or
more networks that provide traffic transport for the end service domain. One or more
gateways are used to couple one of the wholesale service domains to another one of
the wholesale service domains, and to perform protocol translation on traffic passing
between the coupled wholesale service domains. In addition, one or more gateways
15 are configured to couple a user to the end service domain, and are further configured
to communicate with the user by a protocol associated with the service. A process
domain provides an abstract representation of applications provided by the end service
domain.